

Item: RESO 08-97
Fiscal Impact: \$100,000 est.
Funding Source: City, Mall, UTA
Account #: Not Determined
Budget Opening Required: ☐

ISSUE:

Opportunity to raise power lines/poles and underground the distribution portion of the lines on 2700 West from 3500 South to 3650 South to improve appearance in the City Center area, in an agreement with Pacificorp/Rocky Mountain Power. An engineering study has been completed.

SYNOPSIS:

Discussions have been held for many years to underground the power lines near City Hall and the Mall. The lines along 2700 West have 2 functions, transmission and distribution. To underground the transmission function would cost millions of dollars but the distribution wires, which are the maze of wires(which also include the Utopia, Cable, and telephone wires) that are lower on the poles, can be placed underground for an estimated \$100,000 on the west side and \$100,000 to \$200,000 on the Mall side. If the pole heights are raised there would only be 4 simple wires near the tops of the poles. This allows for the installation of limited height landscaping and new street lights under the poles.

BACKGROUND:

The Light Rail project will require the poles to be moved and replaced. During discussions of that effort, it was discovered that UTA might need to underground the distribution function near the new Starbucks building. This led to a possible project to reduce the clutter here in the City Center by eliminating all the lower lines on the poles and moving the transmission lines higher, out of general view, on taller poles. Fewer poles are needed if only a transmission function is provided since the spacing can be increased to 450' from the current 300'. There are significant clearance issues that have been resolved with the proposed Mall buildings and the Mall has committed to handle their side of 27th in their Conditional Use approval. Their poles will need to be higher than the west side poles, to accommodate their site plan and proposed building heights. The streetscape improvements include an 8' parkstrip and a 8' sidewalk with lower profile trees and streetlights in the parkstrip on the Mall side and on the west side spaces for trees and streetlights within about an 8' sidewalk area on the west side. As redevelopment occurs a larger sidewalk could be added on the west side.

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend approval of the agreement to proceed with construction.

SUBMITTED BY:

Joseph Moore/John Janson